

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tire, comprising:
 - an inboard tire wall having a bead;
 - an outboard tire wall having a bead, a wheel protector, and a flange seat;
 - the outboard tire wall having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, and the inboard tire wall having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, the widths of the outboard and inboard tire walls being approximately the same;
 - the flange seat on the outboard tire wall having an inner diameter, a ledge, and a width therebetween, and the outboard bead having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, the width of the flange seat being greater than the width of the outboard bead.
2. The tire of Claim 1, wherein the flange seat is configured to interface with an extended outer flange of a wheel when mounted thereon to thereby simulate the appearance of a low-profile tire on a large-diameter wheel.
3. The tire of Claim 1, wherein the outboard and inboard tire walls are approximately mirror images of each other.
4. The tire of Claim 1, wherein a cross-section of the ledge is substantially parallel to the axis of the tire.
5. The tire of Claim 1, wherein the ledge has an inboard edge, an outboard edge, and a width therebetween, the width of the ledge being at least about 1/8 inch.
6. The tire of Claim 5, wherein the width of the ledge is between 1/8 inch and about 1/4 inch.
7. The tire of Claim 1, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 1-1/2 inches.
8. The tire of Claim 7, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.
9. The tire of Claim 7, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

10. The tire of Claim 7, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

11. The tire of Claim 1, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2 inches.

12. The tire of Claim 11, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

13. The tire of Claim 11, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

14. The tire of Claim 11, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

15. The tire of Claim 1, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2-1/2 inches.

16. The tire of Claim 15, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

17. The tire of Claim 15, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

18. The tire of Claim 15, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

19. A tire for enhancing a simulated appearance of a large-diameter wheel mounted within a low-profile tire, the tire comprising:

an outboard tire wall, an inboard tire wall, and a tread, the outboard tire wall having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, the width of the outboard tire wall being at least about 3-1/2 inches;

a flange seat formed on at least the outboard tire wall, the flange seat having an inner diameter, a ledge, and a width therebetween, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter as large as the width of the outboard tire wall; and

the distance between the tread and the inner diameter of the outboard tire wall being about the same as the distance between the tread and the inner diameter of the inboard tire wall.

20. The tire of Claim 19, wherein a cross-section of the ledge is substantially parallel to the axis of the tire.

21. The tire of Claim 19, wherein the outboard and inboard tire walls are approximately mirror images of each other

22. The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 1-1/2 inches.

23. The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

24. The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

25. The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2 inches.

26. The tire of Claim 25, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

27. The tire of Claim 25, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

28. The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2-1/2 inches.

29. The tire of Claim 28, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

30. The tire of Claim 28, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

31. A tire for enhancing a simulated appearance of a large-diameter wheel mounted within a low-profile tire, the tire comprising:

an outboard tire wall with a flange seat and an outboard bead, an inboard tire wall with an inboard bead;

the flange seat having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, and the outboard bead having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween; and

the width of the flange seat being at least about 1-1/2 inches, and at least about 1/2 inches greater than the width of the outboard bead.

32. The tire of Claim 31, wherein the inboard bead and the outboard bead have substantially the same width.

33. The tire of Claim 31, wherein the flange seat is substantially more rigid than the remainder of the outboard tire wall.

34. The tire of Claim 31, wherein the outboard and inboard tire walls are approximately mirror images of each other.

35. The tire of Claim 31, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2 inches.

36. The tire of Claim 35, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

37. The tire of Claim 35, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

38. The tire of Claim 35, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

39. The tire of Claim 31, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2-1/2 inches.

40. The tire of Claim 39, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

41. The tire of Claim 39, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

42. The tire of Claim 39, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.